

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed from a piezoelectric ceramic ~~ceramics~~-having ceramic particles, wherein:
 

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent;

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~0.81.3~~ 0.81.3 to ~~4.74.2~~ 4.74.2  ~~$\mu m$~~   $\mu m$ ; and

a maximum value  $Q_{max}$  of "Q" ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 24 MHz is 8 or larger.
2. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric element ~~ceramics~~-as set forth in claim 1, wherein said  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$ , ~~and wherein~~ "α" satisfies  $\alpha = 1 - \beta$ , "β" satisfies  $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.50$  ~~0.50~~, and "γ" satisfies  $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.50$ .
3. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric element ~~ceramics~~-as set forth in claim 1, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.
- 4-5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~-element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed from a piezoelectric ceramic having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Ca, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Ca and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~1.0~~1.4 to ~~4.5~~4.2  $\mu m$ ; and

a maximum value  $Q_{max}$  of "Q" ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 60 MHz is 6 or larger.

7. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~element as set forth in claim 6, wherein said  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Ca_{1-\beta}Ln_{\beta})Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ , ~~and wherein~~ " $\beta$ " satisfies  $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$  and " $\gamma$ " satisfies  $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.20$ .

8. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~element as set forth in claim 6, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by a piezoelectric ceramic ~~ceramics~~ having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles ~~comprises~~comprise

a bismuth layer compound containing at least Ba, Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Ba, Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn and an oxide of Ge as a subcomponent;

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is ~~0.4~~1.0 to ~~3.2~~  $\mu m$ ; and

~~μm~~. 1.7 μm; and

a maximum value  $Q_{\max}$  of “Q” ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to the fundamental wave of thickness-shear vibration at 8 MHz is 23 or larger.

12. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Ba_{1-\alpha-\beta}Sr_{\alpha}Ln_{\beta})Bi_{\gamma}Ti_4O_{15}$ , and

“α” satisfies  $0.1 \leq \alpha \leq 0.6$ , “β” satisfies  $0.05 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$  and “γ” satisfies  $3.90 \leq \gamma \leq 4.30$  in said composition formula.

13. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ~~ceramics~~ element as set forth in claim 11, wherein

a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO, and

a content of said oxide of Ge is 0.05 to 0.5 wt% in terms of GeO<sub>2</sub>.

14-15. (Canceled)